

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Planning and Zoning



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 1, 2013

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## Harford County Celebrates Arbor Day

*Event held at Cedar Drive in Edgewood*

(Bel Air, MD) - - Harford County celebrated **Arbor Day** on Friday, March 29, 2013. The event was held on the grounds of the Edgewood Elementary School and the adjacent Boys and Girls Club located at 2000 Cedar Drive in Edgewood.

**Arbor Day** 2013 marks the tenth consecutive year that Harford County has earned the Tree City USA award from the **National Arbor Day Foundation**. The **Tree City USA** designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest.

**Arbor Day** 2013 officially began with a proclamation presentation by County Executive David R. Craig and Pete Gutwald, Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning to Betsey Greene of the Department of Planning and Zoning who coordinated the **Arbor Day** event.

**Arbor Day** included planting of approximately 200 seedlings and 127 street trees approximately four – six feet in height. Urban trees beautify and enhance local communities and provide environmental benefits by filtering air, shading and cooling adjacent building and paved areas and by absorbing stormwater runoff.

The event also included displays, exhibits, refreshments and a free tree for all who participated. Approximately 250 men, women and children participated in the planting seedlings.

The Harford County **Arbor Day Celebration and Conservation Project** is sponsored by Harford County Government and the Harford County Forestry Board.

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County Executive Craig and Director Gutwald accepted the Tree USA designation and the Tree City USA Growth award for increasing the per capita spending on tree related activities in Harford County. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Harford County has received the Tree City USA designation.

Additionally, Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning received the PLANT award (People Loving and Nurturing Trees) from the Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee. This year marked the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Harford County has received the PLANT award.

The **Arbor Day Foundation** began in 1972 on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first **Arbor Day**. The Foundation recognizes more than 3,300 communities through the Tree City USA program, which honors cities and towns that are committed to planting and nurturing trees. The Harford County plantings are funded entirely by the Harford County Forest Conservation Act. The Harford County Forest Conservation Law was enacted on July 18, 1991 to insure that tree and forest resources continue to benefit the community.

Commenting on the Tree City USA designation from the **National Arbor Day Foundation**, County Executive David R. Craig stated, “We are delighted to once again be honored by the **National Arbor Day Foundation** with the prestigious **Tree City USA** award. I congratulate the Department of Planning and Zoning, the Harford County Forestry Board and countless volunteers who help make this award possible.